

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claim 17 is respectfully acknowledged.

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 17.

In addition, claims 11, 12 and 15 have been amended to make a few minor grammatical improvements to put the claims in better U.S. form.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 11 and claims 12-16 depending therefrom are now all in condition for immediate allowance.

And it is noted that withdrawn claims 13 and 14 depend from allowable claim 11, and it is therefore respectfully requested that these claims also be considered and allowed.

THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 14 has been amended to be labeled as "Prior Art" as required by the Examiner.

Submitted herewith are a corrected sheet of formal drawings which incorporates the amendment and an annotated sheet showing the changes made thereto.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendment to the drawings be approved and entered, and that the Examiner's objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

RE: INVENTORSHIP

The inventorship of the present application has changed due to the cancellation of claims as set forth hereinabove.

Mr. Tatsuji HIGUCHI is the sole inventor of the presently claimed subject matter. A Request to Delete Inventor under 37 CFR 1.48(b) is submitted herewith.

* * * * *


In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Application No. 09/837,357
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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Application No. 09/837,357
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Amendments to the Drawings:

Fig. 14 has been amended to be labeled as "Prior Art" as required by the Examiner.

Attachment: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes
 Replacement Sheet

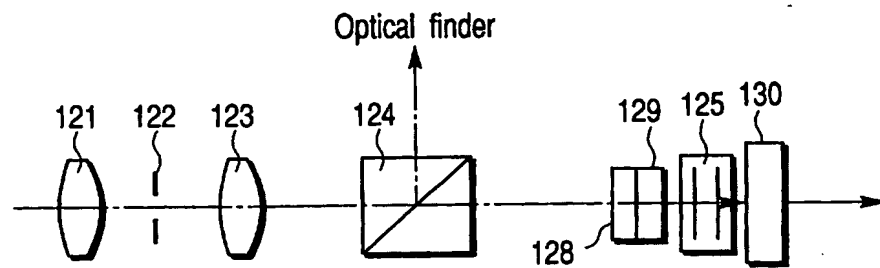


FIG. 14
PRIOR ART

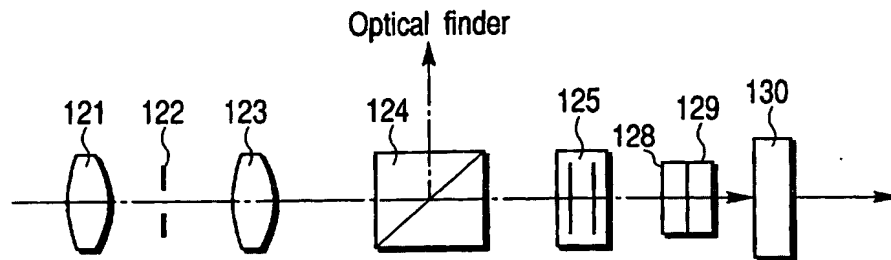


FIG. 15

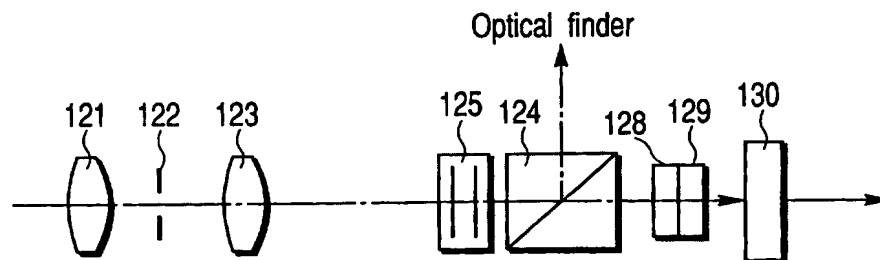


FIG. 16

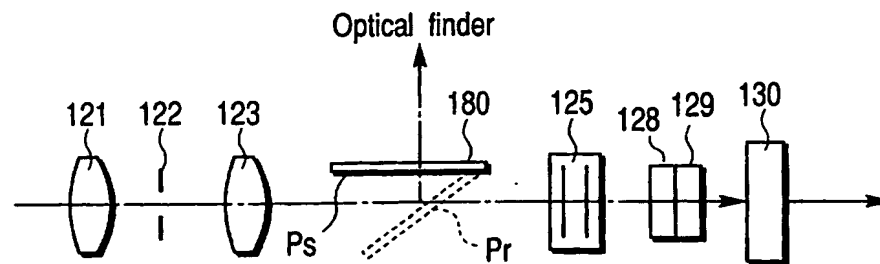


FIG. 17